

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition including ~~an~~ a water insoluble abrasive filler substance, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said abrasive filler substance is selected from the group consisting of abrasive silica, calcium carbonate, talc, kaolin and mixtures thereof and is encapsulated in ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres of cross-linked alginate.
11. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 0.6 and 1.5 mm.

12. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres have an equivalent average diameter lying between 1 and 1.2 mm.
13. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres are present in quantities from 1% to 10% by weight referred to the weight of the chewing gum.
14. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said abrasive filler substance is present in particles having dimensions expressed as equivalent average diameter, lying between 2 and 100 um.
15. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said abrasive filler substance has a particle size lying between 6 and 10 um.
16. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres comprise from 80% to 99% by weight of abrasive filler substance.
17. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum composition according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the said ~~micro-spheres~~ microspheres further include ingredients chosen from flavorings, sweeteners, active agents and mixtures thereof.